

tion was strengthened by the possibility that it had in some way been imported to our waters through the medium of the mail steamers passing through the Red Sea *en route* for Australia. However, this does not appear to have originated its occurrence from the fact that specimens exist in the Macleay Collection which must have been obtained prior to the advent of steamers *via* Suez Canal. Even were this not the case, our insect, to my mind, proves itself sufficiently distinct structurally to separate it from *H. Hayanus*.

When our specimens were first obtained, during April of the present year, a large percentage were discovered *in copulâ*; but observations in regard to the time the eggs were deposited or where laid have up to the present been unavoidably postponed. As the insect occurs in immense numbers ample opportunity is thus afforded for further investigation, meanwhile I am content to present a preliminary description of the larval and adult forms. In the act of copulation the female carries the male on her back, the latter grasping her round the body with the front legs above the region of the intermediate acetabula.

NOTE ON THE NIDIFICATION OF *EDOLIISOMA* *TENUIROSTRE*.

BY A. J. NORTH, F.L.S.

EDOLIISOMA TENUIROSTRE, *Jardine*.

Ceblepyris jardinii, Rüppell.

Campephaga jardinii, Gould.

DURING the latter end of September, 1882, Mr. C. C. L. Talbot observed a pair of these birds building their nest in the angle of a thin forked horizontal branch of an Ironbark (*Eucalyptus* sp.), about forty feet from the ground, on Collaroy Station, Broad Sound, 556 miles N.W. of Brisbane. A week after, seeing the female sitting on the nest for some length of time, he climbed up to it and found it contained a perfectly fresh egg, which he took (not waiting for the full complement, which is probably two), as the tree was a difficult one to climb, at the same time securing the nest. It was a small and shallow structure composed of wiry grasses securely fastened together with cobwebs, and closely

resembled the branch on which it was placed. The egg is ovoid in form, of a very pale bluish-grey ground colour, uniformly spotted and dotted with irregular shaped markings of different shades of umber and slaty-brown, underlying blotches of slaty-grey appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell. Length 1.2 x 0.82 inch. In the colour and disposition of its markings, it resembles some varieties of the eggs of *Sittella chrysoptera*, and in shape and size that of the egg of *Graucalus hyperleucus*, but is entirely free from the asparagus-green ground colour which predominates in the eggs of the latter genus. This is the only occasion I have known of the nest and egg of this species having been taken.

The northern and eastern portions of the Australian Continent constitutes the habitat of this species.